Volume XIII Chicago, Ill., August, 1936 Number 5

The Liberalist

THREE GATES OF GOLD

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale some one to you has told
About another, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.

Three narrow gates: First, "Is it true?"
Then "It is needful?" in your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest—"Is it kind?"

And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three.
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

—Unknown.

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The Peoples Church

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THE LIBERALIST

Preston Bradley ..... **Editor**
Grace Thayer Bradley ..... **Associate Editor**

Volume XIII Chicago, Ill., August, 1936 Number 5

OPENING SERVICE

Sunday, September 20th, 10:45 A. M.

Subject:

"A Summer of Crisis and Change"

Preston Bradley, Preacher

Entire Service Broadcast by WJJD

With this service our pastor begins his 25th year of his ministry with The Peoples Church of Chicago. Let us all cooperate in every way in making his Silver Jubilee Year the best in the long and splendid history of the Church.

ALONG THE WAY

By Preston Bradley

I have had quite a few letters during the summer from readers of our church magazine telling me how much they have enjoyed these informal chats of my life and work as I travel along the way. I appreciate these expressions very much. I have tried to keep the notes and comments very informal and personal. They are written under all sorts of conditions.

Sometimes on the back of an envelope on the train, some times while resting along a woodland trail or on a portage, or again in my little study on Black Duck Island. They are designed to be intimate and friendly. I wish our readers would think of them as a personal letter written each month to each one. That is one of the reasons why I wish every member and friend of the church would give us their names for the membership list. This would give me an opportunity to talk over with you the plans, work and ideals of the church. I am going to continue these monthly chats all winter long and in them I shall open up my heart on all possible manner of themes, subjects, incidencies and experiences which come my way. This will be a very interesting winter and will be filled with many happenings of great importance to us all is every field of life. It is a challenging thing to be given the privilege of living in times like these. Each month during the winter I will try and give you such a record of my reactions and experiences to it all that you will find encouragement and inspiration.

* * * * *

I have long thought that the New Year really begins for one on their birthday. I think of my birthdays as New Year's Day. On that day I take the attitude that so many people do on New Year's Day. I think about the year which is over, the things that have happened, the changes which have come, the dreams which did not come true and those which did, the hopes for the future and the making of plans for the coming year. In some respects my birthday is the most important day in the year to me.

I could never understand how many people could pass over their birthday with no thought of its significance at all or with slight recognition of it. Birthdays have always been important days in our household. Everyone's is observed as an event of importance. Never is it permitted to pass without a celebration. We never place very much emphasis on the age one becomes on the birthday. That is not the idea at all. But as a logical focal point of the year the birthday is most opportune. This year I celebrated my 48th birthday on our beautiful island which is one of the many islands in lovely Lake Vermilion. Many of you are familiar with Lake Vermilion through the many sermons in which I have mentioned it and in the articles which we —Mrs. Bradley and I, have written. It has been our home for 20 summers. There are over a 1,000 miles of shoreline and 365 islands. The northshore of the lake is the southern boundary line for the Superior National Forest. Our own island is a very small one of about four acres. Here we live each summer and the time is spent between work and play. One of the important days of the entire summer seems to be my birthday. Every hour in the whole day is planned by those who love me most as one which will bring happiness to me. This year it was touched with melancholy for last year my blessed Father was with us and all day long I was thinking of him and what we were doing a year ago. The day usually begins with me in having a fine sun-bath and a good swim. The

morning passes all too quickly and at 2:00 o'clock we gather for the birthday dinner. For days before the birthday the mail is carefully gone over before I see it for the purpose of weeding out all birthday letters and cards. These I never see until after the birthday dinner. I am grateful for the many friends and members who remembered me this year. The mail boat arrives at our dock about 3:00 o'clock and this year brought several telegrams from dear friends. Besides the guests who were on the island we had only two other dinner guests this year—our dear friends Dr. and Mrs. Armin P. Baur.—who have a summer home not far from us.

Many of you will remember Dr. Baur as our splendid organist for many years. In the afternoon Dr. Morriston Thomas, minister of the Ravenswood Congregational church in Chicago and his brother-in-law Dr. Evans, professor of Chemistry, in the Ohio State University, called and we had high tea together. One of my regrets this year was in not having with me Mr. and Mrs. Thos. A. Harrison of our church who have been with us many times in the past. I had a fine telegram from them and also received a telegram of much help from the family of our president—Mr. Walter H. Hermsdorf. Before I realized it the day was fading and a colorful twilight was softly whispering of the coming night. I received among many much appreciated presents a chess table and a new set of chess men. I closed the day by playing a game with one whom I taught to play many years ago and who now surpasses his teacher for he won the game! As I blew out the light in my bedroom that night (we still use kerosene lamps up here) I thought of the yesterdays and wondered about the tomorrows of my life. With the dawn a NEW YEAR had begun!

* * * * *

The church lost one of its most loyal members and I lost one of my best friends in the passing of Mr. Fred N. Peet in the first week in July. Mr. Peet was active in our church for over 10 years. He was National Secretary of the Izaak Walton League of America since its organization, and was President of the Layman's League of our church for several years. We have had many trips together in the out-of-doors. He was known throughout the nation as the holder of the worlds long distance record in fly casting. He made all of his own flies which were classic examples of this most difficult art. Last year the death of a son who was in business in Milwaukee necessitated Mr. and Mrs. Peet moving to Milwaukee where his death took place. I went to Milwaukee on the 9th of July and conducted the funeral service. It was one of the most difficult tasks I have ever known. Many business associates, friends and companions of field and stream were present. Our church was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison.

A few days ago I received from Mrs. Peet a gift of part of Mr. Peet's fishing equipment. This expression touched me deeply. Whenever I use any of the flies I shall do so with great reverence for I know they were once used and made by a master sportsman and ardent conservationist.

From where I am writing I can glance up and see hanging on my study wall the picutre of our congregation taken at a church service on a Sunday morning in February over six years ago. There in their accustomed seats are Mr. and Mrs. Peet and their daughter Norma. They always sat at my right in the third row. When services resume in September I shall miss Fred for he was always there. Good luck. old fisherman, you have come to the end of the day. You were a true sportsman and a good friend. Wherever you are, may there always be blue skies and a soft west wind. A "tight line to you" and a handclasp from here to there.

* * * * *

Mrs. Bradley very graciously

agreed to give you a description of our Apostle Island trip in this issue. I am glad she did for I know you will have a much more vivid and picturesque account than I could possibly write. I sit down to my study table, write out what I have to say and never read it again. She always makes notes, then a draft and then rewrites the whole thing again with the result that she does a very unusual and fine bit of writing. There aren't hours enough in the day for me to follow her method. I wouldn't get half the work done which I do. I think that she writes as well as any woman writer I know. I hope sometime she will publish many of the things she has written for they are worthy of such permanency. She is seated while I write these words about her at another desk in the study where she is finishing her article. I know what she will say when she reads these words but that is a family matter.

* * * * *

I hope all of our members and radio friends will remember that the church services resume on Sunday morning, September 20th, at 10:45. Station WJJD will broadcast the entire service. I have chosen for the opening subject, "A Summer of Crisis and Change" and will attempt to give an appraisal of the momentous national and international events which are gradually but surely bringing this nation and the entire world to some history making decisions. I hope every one who reads these lines will find it possible to be present. Let us make it a great homecoming service.

THE OLD MISSION CHURCH AT LA POINTE

By Grace Thayer Bradley

Early in the summer Dr. Bradley received a letter rom Mr. Edward Salmon reminding him of his promise made a year ago—that someday he would make a visit to Madeline Island and preach in the Old Mission Church. Mr. Salmon wrote that if Dr. Bradley would name a Sunday in August when he would come and bring his family he would like us to be his guests for a week at The Old Mission Inn of which he is owner and manager. Thinking it would be a pleasant experience to spend a week-end at this historical and picturesque place we accepted the invitation for Sunday, August 10th.

Spending Thursday night in Duluth we enjoyed the pleasant drive to Bayfield, Wisconsin, Friday, and took the little steamer "Nichevo" which does ferry service across to Madeline Island—about a half hours ride. We also took our car over so we could enjoy some of the lovely drives on the Island. This little ride on Lake Superior was the best part of the trip—cool and restful after a warm and very dusty drive, and the Bradleys do like to be on boats as everyone knows!

We were warmly welcomed at the Inn by the Salmon family. Mr. Salmon's sister crossed on the same ship with us to Europe in 1932, so it was the renewal of an old acquaintance, and she did many kind things to add to our pleasure while at the Inn.

The pine-clad hills of Madeline Island, one of the group known on the map as the Apostle Islands, forms a lovely picture as one approaches by ferry. There are a number of very fine summer houses built along the coast, over-looking the blue waters of Lake Superior; in the interior a few farms, and at the head of the landing dock one strolls into the tiny village of La Pointe. Out from the dock there was a magnificent yacht at anchor, and a few sail boats and small craft.

We looked with longing eyes at the yacht "Nellwood" as we passed her, not even entertaining a hope that we might be permitted to go aboard. That seemed entirely out of the program,—which only proves one never knows what a day may bring forth.

To service Sunday morning came Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wood of Lincoln, Nebraska, owners of the yacht and a large summer home with formal gardens, fountains, pools and all the appointments.

And on Monday they gave us a party on board the "Nellwood," inviting some twenty or thirty others to join us, and we had a most delightful cruise. Built on beautiful lines 130 feet long, shining spic-spanness every inch of her, with her yellow smoke stack and funnels, and mahogony life boats. There is a beautifully appointed cabin, a smokingroom and dining room and several staterooms with tiled bathrooms, beside the kitchen, engine room and crews quarters.

Part of the time some of us were on the upper deck in steamer chairs enjoying the sunshine until it grew too windy, then we all went down to the main deck, luxuriously furnished with large low cushioned chairs, numerous small tables and a great deep seat where a dozen or more could lounge comfortably amid many cushions and Hudson Bay blankets—On this deck at four in the afternoon Mrs. Wood poured tea from a beautifully appointed table, and two stewards dressed in white passed various kinds of of sandwiches, cakes, and other things of which there seemed to be an unending store, Everyone was tremendously hungry.

When we boarded the yacht imagine Dr. Bradley's surprise when Mr. Wood introduced the captain to him and the captain said, "I am honored to meet Dr. Bradley, for I am one of his radio fans, I hear him every Sunday in the winter." Dr. Bradley went up to the pilot house, as he does on all ships and could not be coaxed down till tea time—when I am sure the only inducement must have been that he was hungry. When the "Nellwood" dropped us off at Bayfield at six o'clock where we picked up our car again to drive to Duluth that evening, all on board stood at the deck rail waving good-bye and as the ship swung away from dock the captain blew a salute that sounded quite like an ocean liner! Mr. and Mrs. Wood are most charming hosts and they surely gave us the biggest thrill of the summer, and one we will never forget!

The Old Mission Church was built in 1839 in the village of La Pointe, Madeline Island. It was moved in 1901 to its present sight, there nestled among the tall pines and white birches on the hillside it overlooks the Old Mission House and the waters of Lake Superior. Its walls are weather-stained deep brown, and its steps leading to the weather-battered entrance door have known the tread of notable people—Mrs. Abraham Lincoln once came there to service, and many years later came President and Mrs. Coolidge.—In the vestibule is the original missionary store, and the old bell in the belfry is still used to call the summer visitors to the Sunday morning services. The worn Old Bible—bearing on it's fly leaf the name of "Lyman M. Warren, 1834," is still used by the visiting preachers.

It is interesting to note that Lyman Warren, and his brother came to the Island from New England in 1818 to engage in fur trade. They brought with them the New England convictions of the value of education and also the background of a religious character. Later when they married and had families they naturally wished their children to have the advantages of education, and established a school for their own children and the children of the Indians, securing a teacher from Mackinaw. Layman Warren felt the need of the civilizing and uplifting influences of religion on the Island and he asked the American Board of Foreign Mis-

sions in Boston to send out a Missionary, but for some time no one could be found to do the work. Then Mr. Warren took a trip to Mackinaw and there found one Frederick Ayer who was willing to go to La Pointe and start a mission school. From this grew the Old Mission to which many fine preachers came as missionaries on through the active years of the mission to educate, civilize and convert.

Northland College is the direct inheritor of the pioneer missionary spirit first expressed in the founding of the Old Mission. Edward P. Wheeler, son of Leonard Wheeler one of the missionaries at La Pointe, became pastor of the Congregational Church at Ashland, later founder of Ashland Academy which grew into Northland College.

It would not be too far fetched it seems to me, to believe Dr. Bradley had completed a circle of Warren tradition by going to La Pointe and reading the scripture from Lyman Warren's Bible, and preaching in the Old Mission Church, for Dr. Bradley's mother was a Warren whose great-grandfather was of the family of Warrens in New England.

The Sunday morning Dr. Bradley took the service was one of brilliant sunshine. A little before eleven o'clock the bell rang out its call to worship, and soon in twos and threes and larger groups people came from cottages and the Inn, and many from farther distance drove to the Inn, parking their cars there, all having to come by foot up the hill to the church. The interior was most surprising and beautiful in its simplicity, suggestive of the Indians, earliest natives of the Island and for whom the Mission was built.

Lined with birch-bark, the pulpit desk holding the large Bible was also covered neatly with birch-bark, as though bound by cloth. Two flower containers concealed in the wall at either side of the pulpit held enormous bouquets of large shasta daisies and daintily small cat-tail against a green backing of ceda boughs; in front of the pulpi was a flower arrangement of re and gold zinnias, sprays of whit lacy wild-carrot, with early aut umn maple leaves—lemon yello touched with crimson. These col ors against the background o birch-bark were very very lovely A branch of exquisitely colorfu leaves were fastened adroitly t the window of small square pane back of the pulpit giving th effect of stained glass—with sun light filtering through.

It was charming. All the othe windows were open wide to ad mit as much air as possible tha very warm morning. The hand made pews of pine—unpainted aged golden yellow and smooth a satin (incidentally they wer more comfortable than an church pew I ever sat in before!) were filled to capacity and fold ing chairs were finally place down the aisle and in the vesti bule. Hymns were chosen tha were familiar to all, for the poo old organ played by a swee young lady from the Inn, was sil ent on some keys,—but the con gregation sang lustily with thei hearts in it, far more than i large city churches where the leave it all to the choir.

Never have I discerned sweeter spirit than existed in th service of this little quain church on that August, Sunda morning. It surely inspired Dr Bradley in his scripture readin —his prayer—his sermon. It wa one of those rare occasions whe those listening seemed lifted ou of themselves—and every hear carried away a message for itsel alone.

It is significant that this Ol Mission is a part of the regio called by the French who onc occupied it—"La Pointe de Sain Esprit." The Missionaries wa back in those early years sough to help the Indians to learn o "The Holy Spirit." That the exemplified their teaching b their own spiritual devotion an nobility of character is certai

for hovering over the Old Mission Church is an atmosphere which still carries their spirit to all who rest or meditate there.

THE AIM OF A LIBERAL CHURCH

"A man comes to say of certain things that are mysterious, of which he thought he knew, 'I don't know.' Then he allows himself to be labelled an 'Agnostic.' No religious life for him. Another man suddenly discovers the abyss of actual woe in the world, the evil that, for the present at least, is without remedy. He is called a 'Pessimist.' Another man looks to the right and to the left hand, and for the time he sees nought of God. The final word for him is 'Atheist.'

"Now we cannot have a free expression of what people from time to time are actually believing until we get over our fear of all such names. We must have faith that is wholesome enough and large enough to keep us from being afraid of our own thought. The fact is that we are continually mistaking the passing moods of the spirit for the finalities of thought. These moods through which we pass have been familiar to the most profoundly religious minds.

"Now the aim of a truly liberal church is to so free the mind that men shall talk together just as simply, as naturally, as fully, about the questions of religion as about the questions of everyday life, that there shall be one place where they may confer together, where a man shall be no more ashamed of expressing his doubt or his difference of opinion than he shall be of expressing his agreement."—Samuel M. Crothers.

MINISTERIAL SERVICES FOR JULY

The church has been fortunate in having Henry Clark as assistant to our pastor for several months. He has remained in Chicago all summer and carried on faithfully with the pastoral duties. The following is the record for the month of July:

Weddings:

2—Jerome F. De Neve
Helen R. Gassner
3—Wallace Miles
Ethel I. Heikkinen
3—Raymond D. Zimmerman
Beatrice I. Pieser
3—Rafael R. Gimenez
June Carmer
4—Thomas L. Olsen
Myrtle E. Hagen
7—Arthur W. Carlson
Marguerite Alexander
7—Karl Haushalter
Xenia Brown
11—Andrew J. Naughton
Mary E. Tresslar
22—Jack Purvis
Vivian Lee Campbell
28—Arthur Pitz
Ruth Hansen
28—Earl F. Witt
Arlyne Lagerquist

Funerals:

8—Mrs. Mary Cripe. Acacia
29—Mrs. Frances B. E. Cregier. Rosehill

THE BAZAAR

It is time to remind our friends that the summer is speeding rapidly along to the fall—Autumn will drop down upon us long before we are ready to receive it,—and there just ahead, in the early fall looms the annual Church Bazaar! Will you be forehanded with what you will donate to assure its success? Will you plan to make some extra glasses of jelly, jars of jam or preserves or pickles, to send to the Food Booth?—When on your vacation trip will you remember when visiting shops here and there, to pick up some interesting article to donate for sale at the Bazaar? You will have fun looking for something, and saying "This is for my Church Bazaar!" Dr. and Mrs. Bradley, the officers and members of The Woman's Club, under whose auspices the Bazaar is given, deeply appreciate the interest and generosity of the

radio friends and all others who so kindly contribute to the success of the annual bazaar.

There will be booths for pillow-slips, towels, fancy cushions, kitchen articles, handkerchiefs, aprons, fancy work, "Dads' booth" —smoking outfits, sporting goods, ties, wearing apparel, etc. A booth for miscellaneous articles of all kinds, and a food booth. Also remember the "White Elephant Booth"—if you have anything in your home that has lost its interest for you send it to the church and be sure someone will buy it from the "White Elephant!" It is really funny what people will buy from this quarter;—a few odd glasses, plates, a dish, a vase, ornaments, anything at all!—The ladies in the Woman's Club are already working on aprons and other articles. They would appreciate materials suitable for aprons sent to them to make up if you find it inconvenient to make them yourself. This alone is a hint to ladies who are very very busy but who want to assist in some way toward the work.

The proceeds from the Bazaar goes to the church, and you will all want to do your part.

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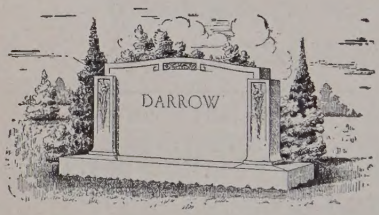

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